

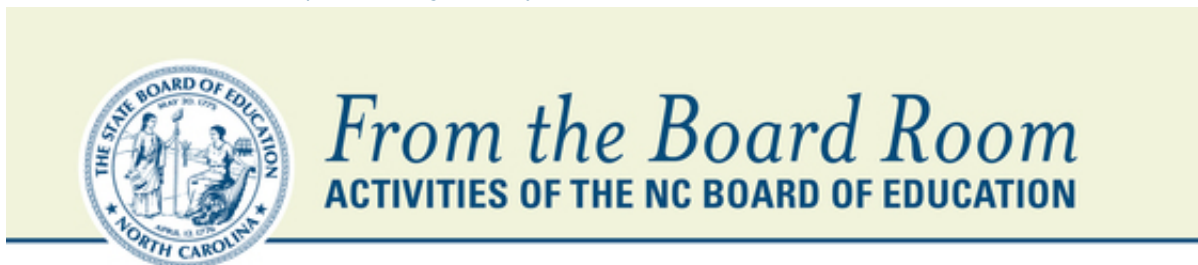
March 2016 From the Board Room

North Carolina Public Schools <NCPublicSchools@public.govdelivery.com>

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To: Lynda Fuller <Lynda.Fuller@dpi.nc.gov>;

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MARCH 2016

The State Board of Education is comprised of the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor and 11 citizens appointed by the Governor. This newsletter highlights the Board's activities on behalf of the 1.5 million public school students in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. You may view all State Board of Education member and advisor information [online](#). To access current and archived versions of From the Boardroom, visit the State Board of Education's [website](#).



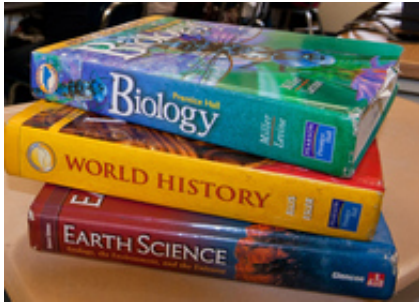
2016 Budget Priorities Discussed for Short Session Request

Board members approved their budget priorities for the 2016 short session of the NC General Assembly, which begins in April. During the short session, the lawmakers make budget adjustments for the biennium that ends in 2017.

Board members identified six broad priorities: teacher salary increases, digital learning, teacher recruitment and retention, state agency support of public schools, general classroom support and residential schools.

Highlights of the overall request include \$57 million in additional funding for textbooks and digital resources to bring state funding to the \$77 million level; \$25 million for classroom technology; \$6 million to bring all of the Home Base digital learning tools to local districts at no charge to them; \$4.4 million for local educator professional development; and \$8.6 million to continue the work of turning around the lowest achieving schools.

All of the budget request items are submitted to the Office of State Budget and Management for consideration to be included in the Governor's formal budget.



Textbook Invitation to Publishers Approved

The 2016 invitation to submit textbooks for evaluation and adoption in K-12 social studies and K-12 healthful living was approved by the Board this month, the first step toward having new textbooks ready for purchase by local districts in these

subject areas.

North Carolina's school districts have the option of purchasing textbooks or digital resources placed on the state-approved list or the option of selecting materials that are not on the list. The approved list carries the benefit of having been evaluated by North Carolina teachers and the Textbook Commission to gauge alignment to the state's standards. Both paper and digital resources may be purchased with state textbook funding.

Currently, North Carolina's annual textbook funding stands at \$31 million, or approximately \$21 per student.



Student Surveys Discussed; Local Districts Decide Whether to Participate

Student surveys can be a useful source of information about teaching and teachers' impact on student learning. North Carolina has participated in several pilot or optional surveys of students –

the TRIPOD (Harvard University) Survey in 2011-12 and the Panorama Student Survey in 2013-2016 – but participation has been at the discretion of the local school districts.

Student surveys offer the opportunity for students to give feedback about their interactions with teachers, the kinds of teaching that they have experienced and their observations in the classroom. Some local districts also do their own local student and parent surveys.

In the latest survey, which was done in January, more than 10,000 students in five participating school districts or charter schools participated in grades 3-12. Local data from these surveys were provided to districts and schools in February.

Board members discussed student surveys because of concerns and questions that had been generated in local districts. Participation remains voluntary and no plans are in place to make participation mandatory.

Special Recognition

The Board formally recognized three honorees.

District 7 Elementary School

(Cumberland County Schools) was

recognized as a *National Title I Distinguished Award* winner. The school is led by Rhonda Hill, principal.



Durenda Johnson Ward, a school counselor at Centennial Campus Middle School (Wake County Schools) has been named *NC Middle School Counselor of the Year* and a *National Counselor of the Year* finalist.



Phillip Riggs, a music teacher at the NC School of Science and Mathematics, received the *2016 Grammy Foundation* award as the *National Music Educator of the Year*.

SBE Highlights: A [checklist](#) of Board actions is posted every month at the conclusion of the meeting. The State Board of Education's next meeting will be held April 5-7 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Board materials will be available [online](#) by clicking on the Meetings tab.



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